

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

- 1) (Currently Amended) A sterile connection device comprising a connector having two openings, each opening being sealed from the environment so as to form a sterile environment within the connector, at least one opening being sealed from the environment by a first sterile barrier plug, the connector also comprising a port capable of three positions, a first closed position, a second partially opened position and a third open position, wherein the port of the connector in its closed position has a portion supporting the sterile plug and maintaining it in its position within the connector, the port has a first opening and a second opening wherein the first opening is capable of containing two or more sterile barrier plugs, at least one coupling device, the coupling device being comprised of a body having an inlet and an outlet, a stem contained within the body and capable of moving at least linearly through the body between a first and second stem position, the outlet being sealed from the environment by a sterile barrier plug and the inlet being sealed to a presterilized component, the outlet of the at least coupling device being attached to either the inlet or outlet of the connector.

- 2) (Currently Amended) A process of forming a sterile to sterile connection comprising (a) taking a connector having two openings, each opening being sealed from the environment so as to form a sterile environment within the connector, at least one opening being sealed from the environment by a first sterile barrier plug, the connector also comprising a port capable of three positions, a first closed position, a second partially opened position and a third open position, wherein the port of the connector in its closed position has a portion supporting the sterile plug and maintaining it in its position within the connector, the port has a first opening and a second opening wherein the first opening is capable of containing two or more sterile barrier plugs, (b) attaching at least one coupling device to an opening of the connector containing the sterile barrier plug, the coupling device having a body having an inlet and an outlet, a stem contained within the body and capable of moving at least linearly through the body between a first and second stem position, the outlet being sealed from the environment by a sterile barrier plug and the inlet being sealed to a presterilized component, (c) moving the port to the second partially opened position to align the first opening with the sterile barrier plugs of the connector and the coupling device, (d) moving the plugs of the connector and the coupling into the first opening of the port and (e) moving the port to the third open position to align the second opening with the outlet of the coupling device so as to establish fluid communication between the coupling device and the connector.

- 3) (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein both openings of the connector is sealed by a sterile barrier plug and a coupling device is attached to each of the two openings of the connector.
- 4) (Canceled)
- 5) (Canceled)
- 6) (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein ~~[the port has two openings, at least open of which is of a dimension suitable for containing at least one sterile barrier plug and the]~~ an area of the port surrounding each opening contains a liquid tight seal.
- 7) (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein ~~[the port has two openings, at least open of which is of a dimension suitable for containing at least one sterile barrier plug and the]~~ an area of the port surrounding each opening contains a liquid tight seal in the form of an O-ring retained within a performed channel.
- 8) (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein ~~[the port has two openings, at least open of which is of a dimension suitable for containing at least one sterile barrier plug and the]~~ an area of the port surrounding each opening contains a liquid tight seal in the form of a formed in place resilient gasket retained within a performed channel.
- 9) (Original) A sterile connection device comprising a connector having two openings, an inlet and an outlet, each opening being sealed from the environment so as to form a sterile environment within the connector, the outlet being sealed to a sterile downstream component, the inlet being sealed from the environment by a first sterile barrier plug, the connector also comprising a port capable of three positions, a first closed position, a second partially opened position and a third open position, wherein the port of the connector in its closed position has a portion supporting the sterile plug and maintaining it in its position within the connector, the port has a first opening and a second opening wherein the first opening is capable of containing two or more sterile barrier plugs, at least one coupling device attached to the inlet of the connector, the coupling device being comprised of a body having an outlet for the device, a stem contained within the body and capable of moving at least linearly through the body between a first and second stem position, the stem containing an inlet to the device at a location distal from the outlet of the device, the outlet being sealed from the environment by a sterile barrier plug and the inlet being sealed to a presterilized component.
- 10) (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2 further comprising (f) moving the stem of the coupling device through the second opening of the port of the connector to form a sterile pathway.

- 11) (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2 wherein the movement of the port in steps (c-e) is linear.
- 12) (Currently Amended) A process of forming a sterile to sterile connection comprising (a) taking a connector having two openings, each opening being sealed from the environment so as to form a sterile environment within the connector, at least one opening being sealed from the environment by a first sterile barrier plug, the connector also comprising a port capable of three positions, a first closed position, a second partially opened position and a third open position wherein the port of the connector in its closed position has a portion supporting the sterile plug and maintaining it in its position within the connector, the port has a first opening and a second opening wherein the first opening is capable of containing two or more sterile barrier plugs, (b) attaching at least one coupling device to ~~[an]~~the opening of the connector containing the sterile barrier plug, the coupling device having a body having an inlet and an outlet, a stem contained within the body and capable of moving at least linearly through the body between a first and second stem position, the outlet being sealed from the environment by a sterile barrier plug and the inlet being sealed to a presterilized component, (c) rotating the port to the second partially opened position so as to align the first opening of the port with the sterile plugs of the connector and coupling device, (d) moving the plugs of the connector and the coupling into the first opening of the port and (e) rotating the port to the third open position so as align the second opening of the port with the outlet of the coupling device so as to establish fluid communication between the ~~[coupling]~~-coupling device and the connector.
- 13) (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[44]~~12 further comprising (f) moving the stem of the coupling device linearly through the second opening of the port of the connector to form a sterile pathway.
- 14) (Canceled)
- 15) (Canceled)